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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Please consider the proposal made by Red Hat as a way for the Microsoft settlement. The current settlement appears to ensure that Microsoft has a monopoly on operating systems and allows them to further propagate their products

#### RED HAT COUNTERS MICROSOFT'S EDUCATION OFFER

Microsoft has proposed settling over 100 private antitrust lawsuits by pledging to donate more than \$1 billion in hardware, software, services, and training to the poorest schools in the United States, but Red Hat has put forward a counter-proposal. It will offer its open-source Red Hat Linux operating system to all U.S. school districts free of charge, and has suggested that Microsoft concentrate solely on purchasing new hardware. In this way, more computers could be made available to schools and Microsoft's monopoly would not be extended further into the education sector, says Red Hat CEO Matt Szulik. He estimates that over one million computers could be allocated to schools under the new proposal, compared to 200,000 under the old one. In addition, Szulik says that Red Hat will provide free software upgrades and license renewals in perpetuity, whereas Microsoft would only provide such services for five years.  
(eWeek Online, 20 November 2001)

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